

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under §§ 103

Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are rejected under section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Patterson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0053023; "Patterson") and in further view of Blakley III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,029,714; "Blakley"). Claim 9 is rejected under section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Patterson in view of Blakley as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Watanabe (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0084289; "Watanabe"). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "determining whether the user has satisfied a previous authentication requirement for the portal having a weight that is equal to or greater than a weight for an authentication requirement for the requested portal content component, wherein the requested portal content component is one of a plurality of portal content components and at least two of the portal content components have different authentication requirements with different weights; and providing an authentication mechanism according to the authentication requirement for the requested portal content component if the weight of the previous authentication requirement is less than weight of the authentication requirement for the requested portal content component; or initiating a display of the requested portal content component if the weight of the previous authentication requirement is equal to or greater than the weight of the authentication requirement for the requested portal content component" (for support, see, inter alia, specification par. 24). Claims 18, 20 and 21 include similar features relating to the

weighting of the authentication requirements.

Patterson relates to an arrangement for secure messaging in which a certificate validation mechanism is operable to compare a certificate associated with a received message to the certificate cache and, where the certificate associated with the received message is held in the certificate cache, to associate with the message an indication of validity retrieved from the certificate cache (see, *inter alia*, Patterson abstract).

Blakely, on the other hand, relates to an enterprise computing environment such as a corporate web portal includes an intermediary server, a sign on service, and one or more backend enterprise systems managed by resource managers (see, *inter alia*, Blakely abstract). Before or after user primary logon, which establishes a user primary account identity, the intermediary server uses its own identity to authenticate to the sign on service its right to retrieve user secondary account identities with respect to the backend enterprise systems (see, *inter alia*, Blakely abstract). Retrieved secondary account identities are then used by the intermediary server to perform user secondary logons to respective resource managers in the environment (see, *inter alia*, Blakely abstract).

The skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine Patterson and Blakely to result in the claimed subject matter. Patterson relates to a technique for validating received messages, while Blakely, in contrast, relates to a single sign on service in which a user can enter one set of authentication information to access a plurality of resource servers (see, *inter alia*, Patterson col. 1, lines 44-66). The skilled artisan simply would not have combined a reference directed to secure messaging with a reference directed to a single sign on service.

Even if Patterson and Blakely were combined, such references, whether considered singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the subject matter of the claims. With

Patterson, certificates are accessed from a certificate cache when it is needed to validate a message. There is no suggestion that a certificate having one authentication weight can be used to access messages that require certificates of lesser weight.

Moreover, with Blakely, a single sign on service is used in which one logon allows the user to access a plurality of sites that in turn require sign-on. With Blakely, the initial logon is not weighted, nor is it suitable for accessing any of the other resource servers having a lesser weight (in part because the resource servers are not weighted). Accessing credentials for various resource servers under certain circumstances does not disclose the subject matter recited in the claims.

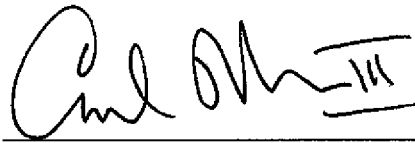
Accordingly, claims 1, 18, 20, and 21 should be allowable.

#### Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-079-UTL.

Respectfully submitted,



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